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TELEGRAMS "LEX, BRADFORD"

TELEPHONE NW 1674-1675

GORDON, HUNTER & DUNCAN

SOLICITORS

W.B. GORDON (NOTARY PUBLIC)
F.T. HUNTER
H.M. DUNCAN (NOTARY PUBLIC)
N. MIQUEEN
J.H. SUTCLIFFE

11, Piccadilly,
Bradford.

1924?

Dear Miss Kitching,

MISS MASON, DECEASED

Many thanks for yours of 17th and the enclosures. I enclose the engrossment of the Affidavit ready to be completed by Miss Parish. She should attend before a Commissioner (most of the Solicitors in Ambleside are Commissioners) to be sworn. The Commissioners fee will be $\frac{6}{8}$ d for which we enclose Postal Order.

I have sent a draft Affidavit on the lines you suggested to Mr Costley-White, asking him whether he is disposed to make it.

As regards the Fairfield Mortgage, - the deeds should be sent to us in order that we may prepare the necessary Release. Did you arrange this with the Solicitors, as mentioned in my previous letter?
Enclosed in stamped addressed envelope for return of the affidavit
Yours faithfully,

W.B. Gordon

Miss Kitching,
The House of Education,
AMBLESIDE.

See Chapter X
See Chapter A

A summary of Miss Mason's philosophy is given in the enclosed Synopsis. The chief points may be stated as follows & the whole work of the School & of the College with its Practising School is based upon them.

Signature

THE CHILD IS A PERSON with all the powers of mind & body that he will ever have; he lacks only knowledge & experience.

Therefore (a) there is no such thing as the child-mind,

(b) the child's powers must all be used for, -

(1) he has a natural aptitude for knowledge &

(2) an unlimited power of attention.

As a corollary to this, in order that his mind may grow it must be fed.

Miss Mason's work was to show that these ends were not served by

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(1) an education limited to the three R's

plus vocational training for the workers' child,

or (2) social accomplishments for the child of the rich

& that they were hindered by,

(3) oral teaching on the part of the teacher,

(4) the use of text-books (except in the case of Mathematics & Grammar) which imparted information only.

For she taught that every child being a person is entitled by birthright to a liberal education; & that a liberal education means

- (1) that the mind must be fed with ideas & not information &
- (2) that these ideas must touch upon all that concerns the nature of child or man.

Therefore Miss Mason said, -

EDUCATION IS THE SCIENCE OF RELATIONS, - the relation of child or man to God, to himself & his fellow men, & to the natural world around him.

Consequently, a liberal education must be devised to cover all these relationships.

So in 1891 Miss Mason started The Parents' Union & later in the same year, The Secondary Training College for teachers known as the "House of Education" in order to educate children from the age of six & girls up to eighteen upon these lines & then to carry on the education of girls, training them for any guardianship of children to which they might be called as parents or teachers, but chiefly as teachers.

The possibilities of Miss Mason's work lay in her discovery of the nature of mind.

Hitherto the mind has been considered

- (1) as a sac to hold ideas, or,
- (2) a part of a child's nature which could only be examined by means of intelligence tests, so-

Miss Mason made provision for her work to continue under those whom she had trained for the work (see the accompanying report issued by the P.A.E.U. for 1923) The Ambleside Council has been formed, a Constitution drawn up which ~~now stands as a model~~ was slightly revised at the September Council Meeting & which will be re-affirmed at the meeting next January. The work is growing. Already the College has more entries than vacancies for January 30th 1924 & a number of entries for January 1925 while the Parents' Union School shows a steady increase in numbers. It is now ^{re-}issuing its 98th programme of work for Jan 1924.